

**LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE  
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN**

**Subject: Open Burning**



**Prohibited Open Burning**

- On a year round basis, open burning is prohibited in the town limits of Middleburg, Leesburg, Purcellville, Round Hill and Lovettsville. Similarly, open burning is prohibited Countywide (towns included) during the period of June 1 through August 31 unless approved by the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office. Campfires, no larger than 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height and used for cooking purposes are exempt from these prohibitions, provided they are no closer than 50 feet from a structure.
- Countywide (towns included), open burning is prohibited between midnight and 4 p.m. during the period of February 15 and April 30, unless approved by the Virginia Department of Forestry (703-777-0457).
- Countywide (towns included), the burning of construction debris, plastics, tires, tar based materials, oil or petroleum based products, hazardous materials, chemicals, animal carcasses and similar materials or waste is prohibited.

**Open Burning is permitted:**

- When not otherwise prohibited as outlined above.
- For the burning of household trash, where no regular street side trash service is available. Burning must be done in a barrel or similar container that is screened or covered to prevent flying embers and may be no closer than 15 feet from a structure.
- For the burning of lawn clippings, tree trimmings and brush piles, generated on site, where street side trash service is not available for this purpose. The burning may be no closer than 50 feet from a structure.
- For agricultural purposes, such as clearing a field or fence row, for materials generated on site. The burning may be no closer than 1,000 feet from an occupied structure and may not pose a hazard to highways and airfields.

- For bonfires, provided that they consist of seasoned wood, piled neatly, no more than 5 feet in diameter by 5 feet in height. The burning may be no closer than 50 feet from a structure.

**All such open burning must be reported to the Fire and Rescue Emergency Communications Center (703-777-0637) prior to ignition and when the fire is out. Fires may not be added to or stirred after midnight. All fires must be actively attended, with means to control and extinguish the fire, or otherwise extinguished.**

**Fire Marshal Disclaimer:** The Loudoun County Fire Marshal may impose regulations, at any time, based upon complaint, atmospheric or other environmental circumstances, to restrict or extinguish any fire that is otherwise permitted according to these guidelines.

**Development Related Burning:**

- All land clearing operations by contractors or land owners for development purposes shall be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. Such burning of trees, stumps and brush will likely require a permit from the State Air Pollution Control Board.
- Warming barrels at a construction site shall be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. As approved, burning must be done in a barrel or similar container that is screened or covered to prevent flying embers and may be no closer than 15 feet from a structure.

**Violations and Penalty:** Violations of the requirements on open burning may result in a conviction as a Class 1 Misdemeanor. In addition, the responsible party may be held liable for all damages and the costs of firefighting operations.

Questions can be directed to the Fire Marshal's Office at 703-777-0333 during normal business hours or you may access this information by navigating to the "Fire Marshal" section on the Loudoun County website: [www.loudoun.gov](http://www.loudoun.gov)

**Date of effect: March 4, 2005**

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